

# Arts in the Parks

## Turkey Run State Park Property Profile

**Website:** <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2964.htm>

### Key Messages/Stories:

- Turkey Run State Park was established in 1916, the second of two “centennial monument” parks celebrating Indiana’s 100 years of statehood. The brainchild of Richard Lieber, the establishment of these two state parks kicked off the first *system* of state parks in the country. His goal, realized in 2004 with the addition of Prophetstown State Park, was to have a state park within 100 miles of every Hoosier citizen. The park is around twenty-four hundred acres in size.
- The Miami Indians, including Wea and Piankashaw inhabited the area. After the removals, Salmon Lusk settled what’s now Turkey Run. He and wife Mary (Polly) had eight children. An entrepreneur, Salmon built and ran a grist- and sawmill, a general store and post office, a hog processing plant, and a flatboat industry exporting local goods to destinations as far away as New Orleans,. A conservationist by practice, he inspired a preservationist spirit in son John, who protected the land’s valuable timber from the intense logging practices of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. After John’s death in 1915, Richard Lieber, with the help of local writer Juliet Strauss, launched an extensive campaign to raise money and awareness for the purchase of Turkey Run. Slated to become Indiana’s first state park, it was instead bought by a timber company. Logged for several months, it was finally purchased by the state the following year.
- Turkey Run State Park contains some of the most ruggedly beautiful and ecologically significant land remaining in Indiana. Old growth forest, a variety of wetlands ranging from seep springs to a fen, climax beech-maple forests and sub-climax oak hickory forests make up just a few of the diverse plant communities thriving in the park. Animals range from the common to the rare and include bobcats, worm-eating warblers and pileated woodpeckers.

### Top Five Things to Do:

- Experience the Suspension Bridge: 202 feet long and suspended by two steel cables, the bridge spans Sugar Creek and is the gateway to the Rocky Hollow-Falls Canyon nature preserve. Then hike rugged cliff and canyon trails: Trails 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 9 are among the most scenic.
- Visit the nature center to see three live honeybee exhibits, live snakes and turtles, a wildlife observation room and the state park systems only planetarium.
- Ride a horse at the saddle barn.
- Swim in the Olympic-sized pool.
- Tour the Salmon Lusk Home, built in 1841 by Turkey Run’s first settler.

**Lodging:** Stay overnight at the Turkey Run Inn in an Inn room, cabin or a house. Enjoy full service dining room, a game room and the large, heated indoor pool. Or camp in the Turkey Run campground in one of 270 sites. 50 amp electrical service, modern bathhouses and playgrounds. Primitive youth tent camp sites are also available.



**General visitor profile:** Campers (weekends or weeklong); day-users for picnics, hiking and visiting the nature center; school groups year-round; scout and other groups for volunteer service; people staying in the lodge and cabins, canoers and kayakers, fishermen.

**Potential arts venues:**

- Amphitheater available: 250-seat capacity, electricity, small covered stage.
- Various shelter houses:
  - Tennis Court Shelter: capacity 180, has electric, modern restroom nearby. Mostly enclosed, with large open doors and windows.
  - Canyon Shelter: capacity 68, private parking lot, has electric, modern restroom nearby. Partially enclosed with open doors and large open windows.
  - Big Log Shelter: capacity 72, private parking lot, modern restroom, has electric. Large room backing up to smaller room, both with fireplaces.
- Nature Center:
  - Small program room that is always set up as a planetarium: seating faces center with a star machine on a podium in center of room. Low light levels. Room may not be moved around. Projection screen, electric.
  - Outdoor amphitheater: the only amphitheater is the one listed above.

**Visitation in FY2014:** 800,000

**Nearby Communities:** Marshall, Rockville, Cayuga, Clinton, Crawfordsville, Montezuma, Mecca, Rosedale, Bridgeton, Waveland

Please email questions to [Artsintheparks@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:Artsintheparks@dnr.IN.gov).

